

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 683

By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant First Class
James David Connell, Jr., United States Army.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces; sadly, many of these honored defenders of our nation and its liberties have fallen in battle throughout our country's history; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2007, Sergeant First Class James David Connell, Jr., a proud member of the 10th Mountain Division of the United States Army, was killed when his patrol came under attack near Mahmudiyah, Iraq, during his second tour of duty in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son, brother, and father, David Connell, Jr., was born in Miami, Florida, and raised in Lake City and was a 1984 graduate of Anderson County High School; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Connell served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed and, for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his children, Ashley Meyer, Nick Connell, Courtney Connell, and Bryan Connell; his parents, James David, Sr., and Brenda Sue Connell; and his siblings, Mark Connell, Jeff Connell, Robby Connell, and Angela Connell Reynolds; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Connell's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured

the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud, though saddened, to join with the United States Army and the citizens of Lake City, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America in honoring a fallen son and hero; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Sergeant First Class James David Connell, Jr., of Lake City for his heroic sacrifice of his life as a member of the United States Army and express to his family our sorrow for their loss and our gratitude for his commitment to the cause of freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.